Boston, March 24. 1857.

Dear Miss Esther;

I have been almost (I hope not quite) unpardonably remiss, in my duty of communicating to you the vote, a copy of which I at length send with this note, — As it is a matter of choice, I shall keep the bust in Boston as long as I have anything to do with the Antislavery Office here. I could wish it a more elegant and a less dusty apartment than this; but such home and head-quarters as Antislavery has in Boston, we feel (at least I do) is the place for your father's likeness, — the place where, could intervening difficulties and obstacles have been removed, we believe he would have gladly come, — when in the body, — and sat down with us in consultation for the best interests of our cause and of the oppressed millions of this country. — Mr. Garrison frequently laments that the

bust is not a better likeness. Pillsbury says less by way of regret, - whence I suppose that he sees something satisfactory in it. H. C. Wright finds it a pretty good likeness; - in which judgment I am myself rather inclined to concur, from a comparison of my recollection of his face with the stereoscopic view of it which I have, and with the print which he sent to me. Indeed to me the bust looks more like the daguerreotype (as seen with the stereoscope) than it does like the engraving referred to - while Garrison takes just the contrary view. At all events the bust is his - and is a head and face of great benevolence, cheerfulness, and firmness - indicating the possession of the noblest faculties of our nature. And we shall always prize it, and love it, for that it reminds us of one whose association with us was so cheering, so valuable, so full of important results to the progress of our cause - of one whose friendship was equally useful, judicious,

and personally delightful. His participation with us honored us all, and gave to the cause, which he loved and served so truly, a new sacredness in our eyes. We shall keep the bust as belonging to that Cause and we trust that it will plead with many the cause of the enslaved. —

I am often held back from writing to you from the feeling that my letter when received will carry with it a kind of necessity for a reply from you — a necessity, indeed, which I ~~would not have~~ hope would not attend you in a troublesome sense, and yet one which I fear would be inevitably felt; — and so cause you, perhaps, to write when you should not. I wish I could hear every week of your health & your whereabouts, without troubling you to be the writer of the message. I suppose you to be in Bristol, and am glad that I can continue to think of you in the same house there. And I hope not to lose the thread of your life, your thoughts, your occupations; I like to know what friends you are having around you; & of the places you ~~are~~ may be visiting. My friendship and

correspondence with your father and yourself have been among my chief pleasures and satisfactions; and I hope that the friendship may never end, and that the correspondence, if circumstances may compel it to be not so frequent and full, may cease; and still more do I hope that your health may be so improved & confirmed as to enable you to use your pen again as freely as you once did and to pursue those objects, and perhaps that especial object, which you most prize. Meanwhile, if I can occasionally know, in any way, how you are, where you are, and what you are able to be about, it will afford me a great satisfaction.

Now that I am so much on personal matters I will say that I and my family have got through one of the severest winters we have ever known without any serious illness. Our little Bessie (now nearly 7) seems to have been the most affected by the cold. She was confined several weeks with severe colds and heavy, hard cough. And though relieved of these, for some time past, she appears puny and pale. A country life, and her natural

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air of Worcester county – to which we shall be returning in about a month – will set her quite up again, we hope. The rest of my children are in very good health. Mrs. May has felt the winter weather very sensibly, but has had no serious illness. – Our mutual friends are in good health generally – Garrison, Mrs. Chapman, Miss Deborah Weston, Mrs. Follen, Miss Cabot, Mr. Hovey, Mr. Pillsbury – the latter quite as well, I think, as when he returned home; yet prematurely old, I think, and not likely to last many years at the best. He is now attending a series of meetings in the State of New York, on the Hudson River. We heard, some little time since, a pleasant piece of news about Mrs. Follen & her sister, viz. that they had received from an elderly gentleman of this city, a family connexion of theirs, quite a handsome addition to their far from ample means of living. The donor was Jonathan Phillips Esq. (whose name you may have seen associated with that of Dr. Channing – the Dr. & he were close friends) and the gift, which was in fact a legacy anticipated, was $5000. – We all rejoiced in this, for these ladies are among our chief saints. I often wish that such as they had wealth, as well as other means of influence, in their hands. But it is probably better as it is, – though I think it would have to be a very large fortune that would hurt them.

The Anti-slavery Cause is destined never to want abundant cause of agitation. We have recently had a decision of our United States Supreme Court (full bench of nine judges) which, if possible, transcends all the other frauds, cruelties, and iniquities which the Slave Power of these United States has heaped upon its degraded and too patient victims. I refer to the decision in the Dred Scott case, of which you will see, I presume, a history in some of the papers which come under your eye, and on which I will not therefore enlarge. Scott was a Missouri slave, & was, years ago, taken by his owner, ~~who~~ who was a U.S. Military Officer, to a U.S. fort situated in free territory, & there kept many years - where he married & had children. By all former decisions & rulings, Scott was made free by being taken by his master into free territory. But he was taken back into Missouri, and as might makes right with many men, he was again claimed as property. He brought a suit for his freedom in Missouri. The decision was against him. He appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court; and they, in their might, magnanimity, democracy, and justice, declare that the said Scott is a slave - that being a slave, he cannot sue or appear in a U.S. Court - that no slave, or descendant of a slave, or man with African blood, is or can be a Citizen of the United States - that the coloured man 'has no rights which the white man is bound to respect' - the very language of the Court!! (Just Heaven, where are thy lightnings!)

By ~~thus~~ this decision, the whole African race in this country, with all their descendants, however commingled with Saxon, Spanish, French, or Indian blood, is given over to the unlicensed, irresponsible dominion and power of the "white" race — the larger proportion of whom in the Northern & Southwestern States are the vilest, lowest, of the species. The effect of the decision upon our Northern people remains to be seen. I am not very sanguine of the result. Our people have become so heart-hardened, so callous, so demoralized by their long connexion with Slavery; and, what is as bad as to its immediate effects upon freedom, they have been so deceived by their own Northern political leaders, even by such as chiefly professed & promised to guide them into the contest with Slavery, as to have lost to a great extent courage and hope for further resistance to the compact, and cunning forces of Slavery. — We have long seen that there is no remedy, save in entire separation of our selves from ~~the tyrannical and~~ corrupting and fatal connexion with the Slaveholding States; but the people are stupidly slow to get their eyes open to the same. You will perceive that Rev. S. J. May, of Syracuse, N.Y., who labored so hard for the Republican party and for the election of Col. Fremont, now says that he "is glad" the Republican party did not succeed, for that they are not prepared to go into power with any useful results, their own standard having become so lowered

and their objects so be-littled. Nevertheless the Dred Scott decision will have a very great effect upon the country, and will rapidly hasten the downfall of this false republic. ~~[illegible]~~ The republic ~~[illegible]~~ began in a most dishonourable bargain with dealers in human flesh. As a very few foresaw it was not only a dishonourable but a most disastrous bargain. It has proved destructive to the great principles and noble ideas which many of our fathers supposed were firmly grafted into our national system. Our alliance with the "sum of all villainies" has crippled & made cowards of the best of our people, & villains of the rest. There is no possible chance of the salvation of either of them save in cutting loose from the corruption ~~to~~ with which they now are linked in. Some - indeed many - are seeing this to be true. God speed the day when America may have a genuine Republic, free from all connection & taint of Slavery.

Do remember me most kindly to Miss Wigham if you are writing to her. It is very long since I have written to her. I associate you & her together very much. And to dear Mr. Armistead pray offer my heartfelt sympathy in all his physical infirmities, & my affectionate respects. I always see his words in print with pleasure. The March Advocate brought us some — The matter of your subscription is now, I believe, all right. Brown some time since paid me over the balance of your money, & told me he was satis-

that he had not paid it before, and that it all strung up he now unfortunately has to pay. Yours truly. Samuel May, Jr.

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